

commanding officer of the North County Jail in Oakland. From January 1993, until his appointment as Undersheriff, he served as the Administrative Captain to the Sheriff. On April 8, 1993, he was appointed to the position of Undersheriff for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff Watson received his BA degree in management from Saint Mary's College in Moraga, CA. He is currently a member of the California State Sheriff's Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and is a member of the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Planning Committee.

We join the friends and colleagues of Undersheriff Watson in expressing congratulations as he is honored by the Hayward South Alameda County NAACP. We thank him for continued service to Alameda County.

ON THE BRAVERY OF ARLINGTON
CEMETERY SOLDIERS DURING
HURRICANE ISABEL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Hurricane Isabel's winds swept over Arlington National Cemetery, the soldiers who guard the Tomb of the Unknowns were given—for the first time in history—permission to abandon their posts and seek shelter.

But that wasn't what was going to happen, and Sergeant Christopher Holmes knew it. He and other valiant members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment stood vigil on overnight duty.

"That's never an option for us. It went in one ear and right out the other," Holmes said.

The monument was established in 1921 with the interment of an unknown World War I soldier, and a sentry has been posted there continuously since 1930. Cemetery Superintendent John Metzler didn't want to put the guards in jeopardy unnecessarily with the fierce storm bearing down Thursday night, so cemetery officials decided to let the guards move indoors if they felt they were in danger.

Holmes' group was on duty for 24 hours, from 6 a.m. Thursday until 6 a.m. Friday. They took turns patrolling the tomb in hourly shifts, never leaving their post.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these brave men and women, who do whatever they must to guard the Unknowns. They cherish their post, and consider it the greatest honor to go out and guard this symbol of every man and woman who has fought and died for this great nation. Their patriotism is admired by all Americans.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
W. RONALD COALE AND MARY
ELLEN FISKE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of my friends, W. Ronald Coale, and his wife Mary

Ellen Fiske. It is not often that two people so perfectly compatible find each other. Fifty years of happy marriage is a remarkable achievement, and for this I congratulate them.

It was 50 years ago today that Ron wed Mary, his girl from, appropriately, Angel's Camp. These last 50 years have witnessed many happy times in their lives, including the births of their two sons, W. Ronald Jr. and Michael, and their five grandchildren.

Ron and Mary have been dedicated and distinguished members of the Stockton, California community. Ron has served as a commissioner with the Port of Stockton since 1991. Before that he served on the City Council and as Vice Mayor. Both Ron and Mary have long been active in the California Republican Party.

It gives me great pleasure to commemorate these two fine Americans on this special day.

SUPPORT FOR DISCOVERY
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Science, I am an avid supporter of programs that encourage the youth of America to push the limits of innovation and originality in science. One such program is the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

Created in 1999, Discovery Communications, Inc., designed the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge as part of the solution to America's chronic underachievement in science and math. The annual national contest responds to evidence that academic performance and interest in science among American students declines dramatically as students become older. This is particularly evident during the middle school years.

For these reasons, the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge identifies and honors America's top middle school student who demonstrates the best skills in leadership, teamwork, and scientific problem solving. More than 6,000 middle school students have entered the challenge since its inception in order to compete for the title of "America's Top Young Scientist of the Year." Since 1999, scholarship awards for the students have totaled more than \$400,000 and challenge winners have participated in science-related trips to far-off places, including the Roslin Institute in Midlothian, Scotland, and the El Yunque rain forest in Puerto Rico.

On September 17, 2003, Discovery Communications, Inc., announced the 40 middle school students who have advanced to the finals of the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge. Selected from more than 1,700 entrants, the "Final Forty" represent an elite group of young Americans who demonstrated exceptional creativity and communications skills in original science research projects. To commemorate the centennial of the Wright Brothers' first flight, this year's finalists will compete in a multitude of experiments involving the science of flight. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on October 22, 2003.

The finalists for the 2003 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge are: Jeffrey Luttrell

of Tempe, Arizona; Tyler Kirkland of Tucson, Arizona; David Edwards V of Tucson, Arizona; Bobby Fisher of Laguna Niguel, California; Jacob Rucker of Del Mar, California; Dana Feeny of Woodside, California; John Reid of Redlands, California; Samantha Bates of San Carlos, California; Patrick Saris of Newbury Park, California; Justin Koh of Bakersfield, California; Taylor Simpkins of Costa Mesa, California; Scott Presbrey of Fort Myers, Florida; Peter Borden of Fort Myers, Florida; Bran Yancey of Miami, Florida; Sravya Keremane of Gainesville, Florida; Sarah Gerin of West Palm Beach, Florida; Joseph Stunzi of Watkinsville, Georgia; Bryce Melton of Terre Haute, Indiana; Anthony Burnett of Derwood, Maryland; Ethan Roth of Kansas City, Missouri; Elena Ovaite of Weston, Missouri; Austin Minor of Lee's Summit, Missouri; Rachel Clements of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Leah Crowder of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Michael Klein of Atlantic Beach, New York; Ryan Lee of Hamilton, Ohio; Bogna Brzezinska of Upper Arlington, Ohio; Lorren Kezmoh of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Katie Sloop of El Paso, Texas; Daniel Steck of San Antonio, Texas; Aron Trevino of San Antonio, Texas; Luis Lafer-Sousa of San Antonio, Texas; Elizabeth Monier of Boerne, Texas; Ian Cummings of Clearfield, Utah; Spencer Larson of Springville, Utah; Ryker Watts of Alpine, Utah; Zachary Hopkins of Highland, Utah; Jennifer Gutman of Wheeling, West Virginia; and Erica David of Pinedale, Wyoming.

At a time when science and technology plays such an enormous role in our lives, I believe it is imperative that we continue to support and nurture the next generation of young scientists. I would like to congratulate these students for their dedication and hard work in the name of science and wish them all good luck during the 2003 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA VROOM

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great citizen. Linda Vroom, who lived for many years in Aspen, Colorado, recently passed away. As her family and friends mourn Linda's passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory here today.

Linda had a noble spirit and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. While in Mexico City during the earthquake of 1985, Linda rescued an infant by jumping out of the third story of an apartment building. She was a talented artist who loved to sing and play the flute. Linda was also an avid biker, though her great passion was for fine wine and good food. Linda was known for helping countless people to educate themselves on these topics at both the Aspen Wine & Spirit and the Cooking School of Aspen. For the past two years, Linda pursued her love of wine by studying to become a sommelier.

Mr. Speaker, Linda Vroom had a great passion for life, and she loved to share that passion with others. While Linda has passed on, her legacy will continue to live. I am honored